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Commissioner for Patents, via facsimile no. 703 872-6306, on the date shown
below.

Dated: September 23, 2004 Signature: _____

(Gregory E. Stanton)

Docket No.: 06005/35530
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

HAVEKOST et al.

Application No.: 09/777,225

Art Unit: 2113

Filed: February 5, 2001

Examiner: C. S. McCarthy

**For: HIERARCHICAL FAILURE MANAGEMENT
FOR PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS**

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action dated March 24, 2004, please amend the
above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on
Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 10 of this paper.

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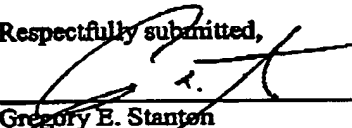
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 30-32, 36, 38, 39, 42, and 43, to which the Examiner had objected, as well as rejected claims 37, and 40-41.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call their attorney at the number listed below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 06005/35530. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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September 23, 2004